

Book Report #1: Write a Literary Response

A literary response should contain the follow elements: an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, separate body paragraphs supporting the thesis, and a concluding paragraph revisiting the thesis and concluding the paper.

Introductory paragraph:

- 1 sentence introducing the title, author, and genre of the book.
- 2-4 sentences briefly summarizing the book.
- 1 arguable sentence, which is your thesis statement. The entire essay relates to this sentence. This sentence previews the entire essay and may outline the specific contents of the body of the paper.

Writing a thesis statement: http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/thesis_statement.shtml

Questions that will help you find a topic/thesis for your paper:

1. What is the theme of the book? Love, happiness, trust, coming of age, ambition, cruelty, fate, freedom, guilt, oppression, pride, rejection, innocence, hope, heroism, etc.
2. What message is the author trying to convey? How does he/she do this?
3. Does the main character change from the beginning to the end? What causes him/her to change?
4. What effect does the setting have on the characters?
5. Is there an important symbol that adds meaning to the selection? (How is this symbol represented in different parts of the story?)
6. To come up with a topic, you may fill out the box below to elicit your feelings about the book.

My reaction to the book:

| |
|---|
| I liked the book because... The author did a good job of... I think... I feel... It seems... In my opinion... A quote in the book that represents the book is.. |
|---|

Writing the body of the paper (3 paragraph minimum supporting your thesis):

Each paragraph of the body of the paper should contain details that support your thesis statement. The paragraphs will consist of a topic sentence and supporting sentences.

Directions for 1 paragraph are given below:

- Topic sentence of the paragraph supporting the thesis.
- 1 sentence detail, quote, or paraphrase of a situation supporting the topic sentence.
- 2 sentences explaining the supporting detail and relating it to the topic sentence and thesis of the paper.

- Additional detail, quote, or paraphrase of a situation supporting the topic sentence.
- 2 sentences explaining the supporting detail and relating it to the topic sentence and thesis of the paper.
- 1 sentence concluding the point and leading into the next paragraph.

- (if needed) additional detail, quote, or paraphrase of a situation supporting the topic sentence.
- 2 sentences explaining the supporting detail and relating it to the topic sentence and thesis of the paper.
- 1 sentence concluding the point and leading into the next paragraph.

Optional Paragraph

- Contrasting point of view

Writing the Conclusion (1 paragraph)

- 1 sentence revisiting your thesis (not exactly restating it word for word).
- 1-2 sentences reminding the reader of earlier arguments or ideas.
- 1-2 sentences leaving the reader with something to think about or making the reader think more deeply about your topic.

Grading Categories (a more specific rubric will be added later)

Introductory paragraph

Thesis statement

Development of arguments/support for thesis

Details relating to the book

Conclusion

Grammar